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Havelok. Edited by F. Holthausen. London: Sampson, Low, Marston & Cie; New York: G. E. Stechert; Heidelberg: C. Winter, 1901. Pp. xii+101. (*Old and Middle English Texts*. Edited by L. Morsbach, Professor at Göttingen University, and F. Holthausen, Professor at Keil University. i.)

The well-known names of Morsbach and Holthausen are a sufficient guarantee that this series of Old and Middle English Texts will be edited in such a manner as to satisfy the most rigid requirements of the best scholarship of the day. The introduction to each volume will contain an 'account of the transmission of the text, the plan of the edition, the dialect, sources, time and place of origin of the work, the existing editions, if any, as well as the bibliography of the subject.' Besides the notes, a glossary of the rarer words and an index of proper names will remove materially the difficulties in the way of the reader, while the employment of marks of quantity and other diacritical signs may be noted as additional evidence of the great care bestowed upon the preparation of the text.

An examination of *Havelok* shows that it has been edited in a most satisfactory way, and in strict conformity with the plan indicated above. From the clear, concise preface may be selected the following details: The Lay of *Havelok* is preserved in the MS. Laud 108 of the Bodleian Library, was first edited by Sir Fred. Madden in 1828, then again by Skeat for the Early Eng. Text Society, Extra Ser. IV, in 1868; among the contributions to the study of *Havelok* there is mentioned in the bibliographical list a dissertation not yet printed, *Zur Heimatbestimmung des Havelok*, by Friedr. Schmidt, Göttingen, 1900; the poem was written in the dialect of Lincolnshire, ca. 1302, but the northeastern Midland dialect of the original has been changed by at least two scribes to such an extent that the editor has met with much difficulty in his efforts to restore the language of the poet; *Havelok* is probably a translation of a lost French original, although the extant *Lai d'Haveloc le Danois* and the Haveloc-episode in Gaimar's *Estorie des Englois* bear little resemblance to the English romance.

The text is divided into paragraphs and chapters, while

capitals, the marks of punctuation and quantity, as well as other signs, are employed for the further convenience of the reader. The foot-notes contain all significant variants, the necessary alterations of the text, and the conjectures of other critics. The volume is also provided with notes, a glossary, a list of proper and geographical names, and the usual emendations and corrections. Finally, it may not be considered superfluous to remark that English is the language used throughout the edition.

Students of the earlier English literature owe Professor Holthausen a vote of thanks for furnishing them with so admirable an edition of a poem of such unique interest as *Havelok*.

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Das Leben des heiligen Alexius von Konrad von Würzburg. Von Richard Henczynski. (Sonderabdruck aus *Acta Germanica* VI, 1.) Berlin, Mayer & Müller, 1898. 8°. 114 SS. Pr. M 3,00.

SEIT Haupt im 3. Bande der *ZfdA* (1843) Massmanns ganz unzuverlässige Ausgabe von Konrads *Alexius* durch eine sorgfältigere und brauchbarere ersetzt hat, sind zwei neue Handschriften des Gedichtes gefunden worden. Die Varianten der einen, S, von Haupt's Text wurden von Pfeiffer in *Germania* XII, 41 ff. veröffentlicht, die andere, A, wurde von Martin in *ZfdA* XL, 220 ff. angezeigt. Auf Grund dieses neuen Materials veranstaltet Henczynski seine Ausgabe, die denn auch in gar manchen Punkten ein verändertes und verbessertes Bild von dem Gedichte giebt.

In der Einleitung äussert sich der Herausgeber zunächst über die Handschriften. Die neugefundene Hs. A ist für unser Gedicht die wichtigste. Aus einem Vergleich mit den Teilen des *Alexius*, die Oberlin 1782 in seiner *Diatriben de Conrado Herbipolita* mitgeteilt hat, ergiebt sich, dass dessen Vorlage, eine indessen zu Grunde gegangene Hs., mit der Vorlage unserer neugefundenen Hs. A identisch gewesen sein muss; A ist also eine vollständige und dazu sehr sorgfältige Abschrift jener verlorenen Urhandschrift. Diese